



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## THREE CREEKS ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest  
Service

Dixie National Forest  
Cedar City Ranger District

1789 N. Wedgewood Lane  
Cedar City, UT 84720-7769  
435-865-3200



### Allotment Management Plan

For

### Three Creeks C&H Allotment

Cedar City Ranger District – Dixie National Forest – Region 4

Management Plan Prepared by: Brian Monroe /s/ Date: 5/6/2010  
Rangeland Management Specialist

Reviewed By: Doug Cox /s/ Date: 5/5/2010  
Permittee

Approved by: Brian Monroe /s/ Date: 5/24/2010  
Acting District Ranger

**This Allotment Management Plan is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit and is incorporated in Part 3 of that permit**

**Three Creeks C&H Allotment Management Plan  
Cedar City Ranger District  
Dixie National Forest**

**I. Introduction**

**A. Authority** - The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) allows for Allotment Management Plans (AMP's) to be included in grazing permits at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture (43 U.S.C. 1752(d), as amended by 92 Stat. 1803 (1978)). The Secretary has elected to exercise this discretion, and has delegated his authority to issue regulations in this area to the Chief of the Forest Service (36 CFR 222.1 et seq.).

**B. Definition** - An Allotment Management Plan is defined in FLPMA as a document prepared in consultation with lessees or permittees applying to livestock operations on the public lands prescribing: 1) the manner in and extent to which livestock operations will be conducted in order to meet multiple use, sustained-yield economic and other needs and objectives, 2) range improvements to be installed and maintained, such other provisions relating to livestock grazing and other objectives found by the Secretary to be consistent with the provisions of the FLPMA (43 USC 1702(k), 36 CFR 222.1 (b) (2), and FSM 1023).

**C. History** – Until January 14 1942, the allotment was used by the Paragonah Cooperative Sheep Association. Permitted numbers varied from 1331 sheep in 1916 to 701 in 1942 for a period of approximately five months (5/21-10/15).

In January, 1942, the allotment preferences were transferred to W. W. Houston of Panguitch, Utah, in the name of the Panguitch Lake Cattle Association, to relieve grazing pressure on the Panguitch Lake Allotment. They agreed to graze 17 percent of their permitted numbers on the Three Creeks Unit, or approximately 100 head of cattle for a four and one half month season 6/1-10/15.

Deer and elk can be found in abundance to winter on the allotment. Before the Forest Boundary was fenced in 1941, several large herds of sheep trailed through the lower end of the allotment, causing extensive trampling and trailing damage.

Early sheep management practices allowed some deferment on the allotment, as the Five-Mile and Three Creeks Units were alternately grazed. Any benefits derived from deferment were obscured by the number of animals and length of the season. Since 1942 cattle have used the area and management has not been intensive. Cattle were turned out on the same early range area each year and allowed to drift and graze at will.

In May, 1965, the Panguitch Lake Allotment was voluntarily reduced 60 percent, the season changed from 6/1-10/15 to 6/16-10/15, and the Three Creeks Unit established as a separate allotment.

In the year 1967 an intensive revegetation project was implemented on the Three Creeks allotment this project included; Chaining of Pinyon-Juniper, Spraying of sagebrush and reseeding grass

species. The Allotment was then rested for three consecutive years. In 1971 a complex watering system was installed bringing much needed water from three creeks spring to the Three Creeks and Tebbs Hollow pastures. In 1983 a 100 acre Pinyon-Juniper thinning was completed. In 1990 a prescribed burn was ignited in the Chokecherry pasture. In 1997 a prescribed burn was implemented in the Chokecherry, and Three Creeks pasture. In addition 350 acres of Pinyon-Juniper was cut. In 2005 a vegetation management project was initiated in coordination with Wildlife Specialists to upkeep previous vegetation work the following projects were reinstituted; Pinyon-Juniper mulching, Harrow and reseeding.

Attempts to gather the cattle in the fall were ill-fated as the rough terrain and dense mahogany made a perfect sanctuary thus in some cases, trespass cattle grazed the area year-long.

Permittee instructions have been prepared for the allotment in recent years, and cooperation is satisfactory.

**D. Current Management** – The Three Creeks C&H Allotment as depicted in map 1 (appendix) consists of 3 pastures: Three Creeks, Tebbs Hollow and Chokecherry. One permittee is authorized to graze 45 cow calf pairs during a season of 6/1 through 10/15. The allotment consists of approximately 6,971 acres of National Forest System lands, of which approximately 2,399 acres (34%) are suitable.

## II. Goals & Objectives, Desired Resource Condition, Standards & Guidelines

### A. Summary of Existing Resource Conditions

The Three Creeks Allotment is intensively managed for conifer encroachment. Trend on this Allotment has been down due to an increase of Rabbit Brush *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* and Cheat Grass *Bromus tectorum*. Water continues to impede management as old poorly engineered pipelines continue to fail. There is 1 known noxious weeds, Musk Thistle *Cardus nutans*, which has progressed up the Three Creeks Drainage.

### B. Goals and Objectives (Desired Condition)

1. Achieve or maintain satisfactory range conditions on all rangelands (Dixie NF LRMP IV-37). Satisfactory range condition on a site is defined as meeting or moving toward desired condition. A downward vegetation and/or soil trend (site is moving away from desired condition) would also cause further evaluation and/or change in management direction (Dixie NF LRMP V-6).

#### **Desired Condition**

##### Uplands

- Maintain minimum ground cover on uplands as specified in the current Dixie National Forest Supplement to FSH 2209.21 – Rangeland Ecosystem Analysis and Management Handbook Chapter 20 – Rangeland Inventory and Analysis. (Range Vegetation Condition

and Trend - measurement of ground cover and soil stability -Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6)

- Maintain the relative frequency of invasive plants at less than 10 percent on uplands not affected by fire or already infested by invasive plants. (Range Vegetation Condition and Trend - measurement of plant composition and vigor - Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6).
- Maintain a plant composition overall resource value rating of greater than “low” on all uplands not affected by fire or already infested by invasive plants. (Range Vegetation Condition and Trend - measurement of plant composition and vigor - Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6).
- In aspen community types, maintain a mixed age class of aspen with ground cover at or above 75%.
- Improve plant diversity and revert areas that have conifer encroachment issues (pinyon, juniper, spruce and fir).

#### Riparian Areas

- Maintain riparian ecosystems at or above 60% of potential. Potential for late seral community types is defined by % gradient and substrate classes (Dixie NF LRMP IV-41 amended 9/95; revised 3/96).
- Maintain 50 percent or more of total streambank length in stable condition (Dixie NF LRMP IV-33). This will be interpreted as maintaining 50 percent of all riparian areas with at least a moderate bank stability rating

2. Protection of threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species: Provide a season of use and utilization level that will protect population of sensitive plants and animals. Protection of plants must allow for sufficient seed production to maintain or improve current populations.

3. Control or eradicate Priority I and II noxious weed infestations as they occur on the allotment using the concepts of Integrated Pest Management.

- Continue early detection for noxious weeds to prevent establishment on the Three Creeks Allotment. Coordinate efforts with Iron and Garfield Counties by documenting new outbreaks of listed species. Currently there are 2 main areas that are being treated at the present time. Those areas are Sandy Creek for Hoary Cress (whitetop) infestation and Three Mile Creek for Musk thistle. Canada thistle has also been found on the allotment.

### **C. Land and Resource Management Plan Standards and Guidelines**

The Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) approved in 1986 outlines the Standards and Guidelines that will be achieved through future management activities on the Dixie National Forest. The following Standards and Guidelines will be implemented through this Allotment Management Plan:

#### **➤ Range**

1. Provide forage to sustain local dependent livestock industry. (IV-36)
2. Remove livestock from allotments for the remainder of the grazing season when proper use is reached. (IV-36)
3. On rangeland in less than satisfactory condition, remove livestock when recovery of range condition cannot be accomplished by the grazing system.(IV-112)
4. Invest in cost effective grazing management and associated range improvements.
5. Invest in cost effective grazing management and rangeland productivity improvement. Where improvements include water developments. Where water right is in the name of the United States. (IV-112)
  - A. Structural improvement will not adversely affect big game movement. Reference FSM 2541.23.
6. Control noxious farm weeds in the following priority:
  - A. Musk thistles, Scotch thistle, Hoary Cress (White Top) Canada thistle.
  - B. Invasion of new plant species classified as noxious farm weeds;
  - C. Infestation in new areas;
  - D. Expansion of existing infestations of Scotch, Musk and Canada thistle, and other noxious farm weeds; and
  - E. Reduce acreage of current infestation. (IV-37)

#### **➤ Range Improvements**

1. Structural range improvements should be developed to benefit both wildlife and livestock.
  - A. Structural improvements and maintenance will be in accordance with FSM 2209.22 (R-4) and 2609.11. (IV-37)
2. To facilitate the control of soil erosion within acceptance tolerance, soil survey or site specific soils data will be used to develop revegetation projects.(IV-37)

#### **➤ Recreation**

1. Manage livestock grazing to enhance recreation opportunities in existing and proposed recreation sites.
  - A. Construct fences of material other than barbed wire around developed sites. (IV-59,61)
2. Exclude grazing of recreational stock and livestock in developed recreation sites.

- A. Maintain vegetation in fair or better range condition.(IV,59)
- 3. Manage livestock distribution and stocking rates to be compatible with recreation use. Locate Structural improvements to meet Visual Quality Objectives. (IV-65)

### III. Management Actions

#### A. Management System

##### 1. Livestock Grazing System

The Three Creeks Allotment will be managed as a deferred rotation system. The rotation is as follows:

YEAR	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2011/ 2013/ 2015/ 2017/ 2019	Tebbs Hollow	Three Creeks	Chokecherry
2012/ 2014/ 2016/ 2018/ 2020	Three Creeks	Tebbs Hollow	Chokecherry

The grazing rotation may be further modified depending on resource needs and conditions.

## 2. Utilization Standard Criteria

Dixie NF - Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria					
UTILIZATION BY SERAL STAGE					
Vegetation Type	Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments * SH = Stubble Height
Riparian Hydric Species	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6" SH	6" SH			Remaining at end of growing season
Hydric Species in wet meadows not influenced by streams	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Non-hydric Species in Riparian Areas	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Upland Species	50%	50%	50%	50%	Varying in specific unit from 40-60%
Wheatgrass Seedings	60%	60%	60%	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings
Riparian Browse	<50%				New Leader Production
Streambanks	<20% disturbance				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, animal tracks
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas

B. Livestock Management

1. No livestock will be allowed on Forest lands until range readiness as determined by the Forest Service has been reached.
2. All improvements (range facilities) on the allotment will be maintained by the assigned permittee (as provided for in Part 2, 8i of the Term Grazing Permit) to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended.
3. Permittee is required to provide a rider/herder to achieve proper distribution and management of the livestock.
4. Utilization will be followed as prescribed. When the prescribed use level is reached livestock will be moved to the next unit or off the allotment.
5. Numbers and season of use will be adjusted annually if determined necessary by the District Ranger.
6. Distribution is critical as utilization is approached you will be required to move to the next unit. Therefore, it is vital that the herd be moved daily out of areas of high concentration to areas typically ignored. Do not allow livestock to concentrate at historically used areas. Strays will not be allowed to stay in previously grazed units and will be moved promptly.
7. Salt will be located at least 1/4 mile from water troughs, springs, ponds, lakes, wet meadows and riparian areas. Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards. (IV-37)
8. All improvements will be constructed by cost-sharing between the permittees and the Forest Service unless otherwise specified. Maximum share of improvements by the government will be 50%.
9. Fences will be designed and located to consider wildlife and visual impacts.
10. All stock water troughs will have small animal escape features installed.
11. Permittees will be required to notify the Forest Service when animals enter the Forest and when they leave at the end of the season.
12. Existing fences will be extended or modified where needed in order to provide a complete barrier to livestock movement.
13. Cultural resource survey and clearance will be required prior to construction of ground disturbing range improvements.
14. Carcasses of dead livestock on National Forest lands will be removed by the owner for a distance of at least three-hundred (300) feet from any live water and one-hundred (100) feet from any trailhead or recreation trail. Carcasses will be removed for a distance of at least five-hundred (500) feet from any campground or picnic area.
15. Prohibit trailing of livestock along the length of riparian areas. Relocate stock driveways where found in riparian areas. Rehabilitate damaged riparian areas to achieve riparian-area goals.



C. Noxious Weed Prevention Practices

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION  
ALL NATIONAL FORESTS

**Weed Free Hay Order**

**PROHIBITIONS:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), and 36 CFR 261.58(t), a Regional Forester may prohibit possessing, storing, or transporting any part of a tree or other plant, as specified in the Order. By this Order, the following acts are prohibited on the area, roads, and trails as described in this order, all within National Forest System Lands within the Intermountain Region until further notice:

1. **Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.**

**EXEMPTIONS:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any member of an organized rescue force in the performance of an official duty.

**AREA DESCRIBED:**

**All National Forest System Lands within the boundaries of the Intermountain Region that include the Ashley, Boise, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Dixie, Fishlake, Humboldt-Toiyabe, Manti-Lasal, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests.**

**PURPOSE:**

The above prohibition is necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into a vulnerable ecosystem on National Forest System lands.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.
2. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000, for an organization, and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].
3. This Order supersedes any previous orders prohibiting the same, or similar, acts in the above described areas.

Done at Ogden, Utah this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2003.

**JACK G. TROYER**  
JACK G. TROYER  
Regional Forester  
Intermountain Region

Order Number: 04-00-097

**A. Rangeland Improvement Program**

No improvements are scheduled for this allotment.

**3. Vegetation Management****IV. Monitoring and Evaluation****A) Effectiveness Monitoring**

The following monitoring program is proposed for the Three Creeks Allotment Analysis area:

1. Maintain re-read and re-photograph the following trend studies at least every 10-15 years.

Study ID	Study Site Name
<b>Dixie Vegetation Trend Studies</b>	
5029	Tebbs Hollow
7040	Chokecherry Spring
9030	Chokecherry Ridge

**B) Annual Operating Instructions**

The Forest Officer will develop Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) each year. The AOI will be based on this Allotment Management Plan. Where feasible, multiple year AOI's may be employed with annual adjustments as necessary. The AOI will detail the current season's management schedule, rangeland development program, and use of key areas. These instructions will implement adaptive management in response to the results of the long-term studies. The AOI will become a part of the permit.

# THREE CREEKS ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

## IIV. Improvements

### THREE CREEKS RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

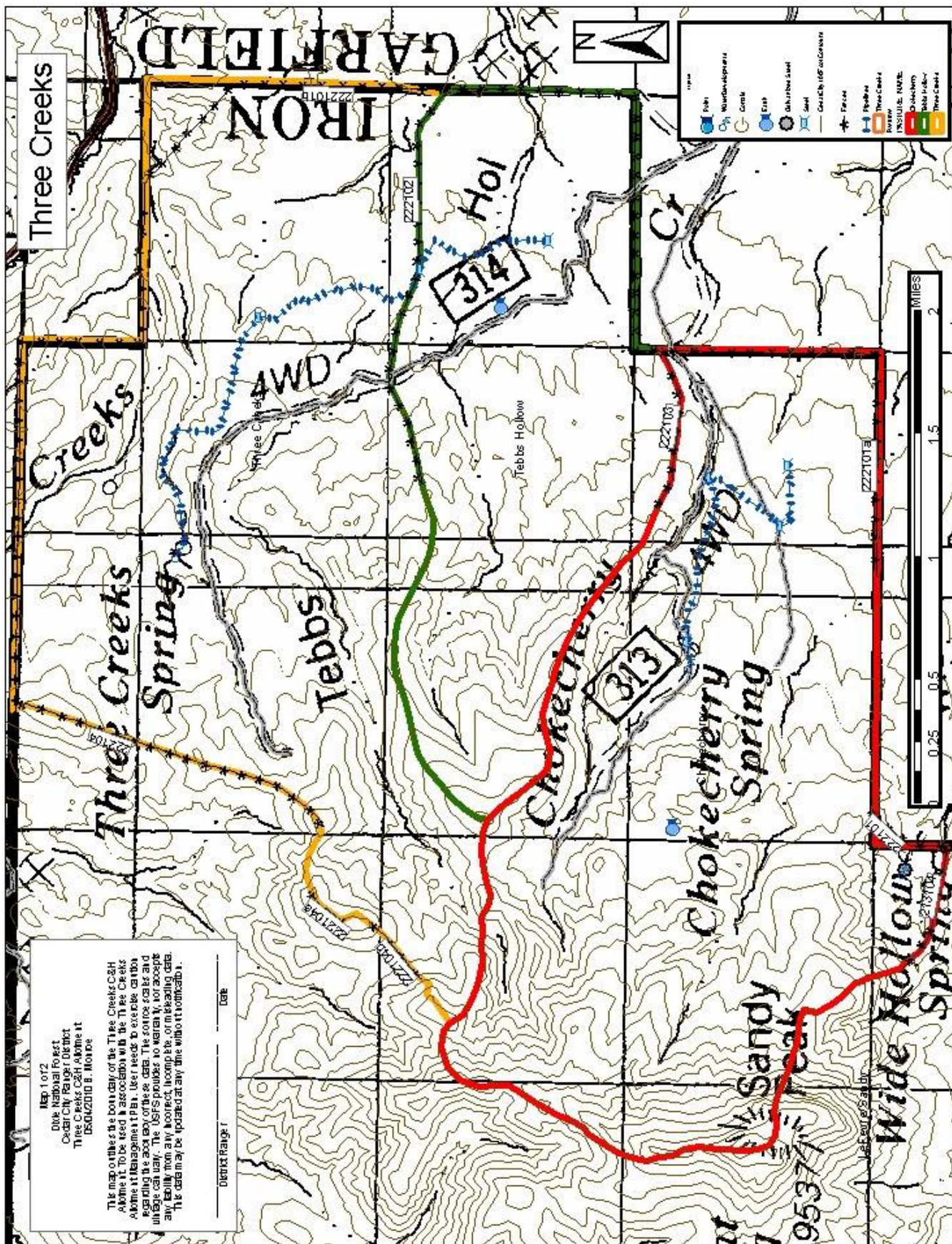
ID	IMPROVEMENT NAME	IMP TYPE	SIZE	PERMITTEE NAME
222101	WIDE HOLLOW FS BDRY	FENCE	.37	Doug L. Cox
222101A	WIDE HOLLOW FS BDRY	FENCE	.91	Doug L. Cox
222101B	CHOKECHERRY FS BDRY	FENCE	6.1	Doug L. Cox
222101C	CHOKECHERRY FS BDRY	FENCE	.23	Doug L. Cox
222102	TEBBS HOLLOW DIVISION	FENCE	1.71	Doug L. Cox
222102A	TEBBS HOLLOW DIVISION	FENCE	.02	Doug L. Cox
222103	CHOKECHERRY DIVISION	FENCE	.68	Doug L. Cox
222104	SANDY PEAK BDRY	FENCE	1.38	Doug L. Cox
222104A	SANDY PEAK BDRY	FENCE	.21	Doug L. Cox
222104B	SANDY PEAK BDRY	FENCE	.32	Doug L. Cox
222105	THREE CREEKS SPRING	FENCE	.07	Doug L. Cox
222201	WIDE HOLLOW	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222202	THREE CREEKS	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222203	CHOKECHERRY	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222301	WIDE HOLLOW	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222302	THREE CREEKS	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222302A	THREE CREEKS	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222302B	THREE CREEKS	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222302C	THREE CREEKS	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222302D	THREE CREEKS	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222303	CHOKECHERRY	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222303A	CHOKECHERRY	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222303B	CHOKECHERRY	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222401	WIDE HOLLOW TROUGH	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222402	TEBBS HOLLOW RESERVOIR	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222403	THREE CREEKS TROUGH #1	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222404	THREE CREEKS TROUGH #2	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222405	THREE CREEKS TROUGH #3	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222406	CHOKECHERRY TROUGH #1	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222407	CHOKECHERRY TROUGH #2	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222408	CHOKECHERRY TROUGH #3	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222409	CHOKECHERRY TROUGH #4	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox
222410	UPPER CHOKECHERRY RES	WATER_SYSTEM		Doug L. Cox

## IIIV. Graphics and Appendices

- A. Allotment Boundary/Range Improvement Map.
- B. Map Designating Key Areas.



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